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JANUARY 2026

GREAT LAKES ISLAND BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

ISLAND VS ISLAND

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BEAVER ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Established 1957
Keeping Island History Alive

NORTHERN ISLANDER

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Happy New Year, Readers!

We have officially completed another successful year in print! Thanks to the continued support of our readers, contributors, and advertisers, the Northern Islander remains a meaningful way to share stories, preserve history, and connect our community both on and off the island.

In this month's paper, you will find an article about resident Laura Green and the health challenges she is currently facing. We want Laura to know that we are in her corner, along with many others in our community. When appropriate and welcomed by the individual and their family, we will always do our part to support a fellow Islander. Caring for one another, especially during difficult times, is at the heart of what makes this community so strong.

As we greet 2026 and the beginning of a new year, please consider letting us know your thoughts on the twelve editions we were able to bring to the community in 2025. Whether you have feedback, story ideas, photos, or suggestions for future features, we would love to hear from you. Your thoughts help us continue to grow and create new content for the community! If you have anything to share with the Northern Islander team, please email us at editor@beaverislandhistory.org.

Looking ahead, we are excited to continue highlighting Beaver Island's people, places, and history in the coming year. We look forward to another year of telling the stories that make this island so special.

Wishing you a wonderful New Year!
Elsie Burton
Editor of the Northern Islander

ANNUAL HOLIDAY SOCIAL MARKED NEW MILESTONE

At the 2025 Beaver Island Historical Society's Holiday Social, things were better than ever! The event, which took place at the Print Shop Museum on December 5, saw the greatest attendance of any event to take place at the museum, with an estimated attendance of around 300 people. It was packed!

Even with a room packed full of incredible supporters, Santa was able to sit for some photos and chit-chat, while others snacked and admired the many incredible trees that were decorated by local organizations. Other activities included a successful silent auction, potluck, stocking stuffers, and music performed by Dyanne Tracy and Sophie McDonough! The warmth of the evening was a true reflection of the generosity and community spirit that make Beaver Island such a special place.

Thank you to the many organizations who decorated their beautiful and festive trees for the event! While every tree was incredibly special, the winner, with the most community votes, was the TUNES tree! We appreciate everyone who participated, attended, donated, and helped make this year's Holiday Social one to remember.

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PRINT SHOP PERSPECTIVE

By Lori Taylor-Blitz

Since 1957, The Beaver Island Historical Society has been working to keep Beaver Island History Alive! We advance this goal through a mission of preserving and sharing the unique history of Beaver Island and the Archipelago.

As the year draws to a close, I find myself reflecting on the work of the Beaver Island Historical Society with both pride and humility. Ours is a small organization with a big responsibility to care for the stories, places, and traditions that define Beaver Island. Thanks to a committed board, dedicated volunteers, generous donors, and an engaged community, we continue to meet that responsibility in ways that quietly but meaningfully strengthen the Island we all love.

This past year brought notable accomplishments. We welcomed thousands of visitors into our museums and historic properties, sharing Beaver Island's unique history with people from near and far. Our programs reached all ages, from children discovering Island history at Kids Camp to adults gathering for lectures, exhibits, and traditional events that celebrate culture, resilience, and place. Behind the scenes, we made important progress in caring for collections, maintaining buildings, and planning for the long term stewardship of historic assets, including the Beaver Head Lighthouse and our waterfront sites.

Equally important has been the steady work of collaboration. The Historical Society does not operate in isolation. We continue to strengthen relationships with township leaders, partner organizations, educators, and cultural groups, recognizing that history, arts, and community life are deeply intertwined. These partnerships allow us to expand our reach, avoid duplication, and present a more unified vision for Beaver Island's future.

At the same time, we face real challenges. Many of our historic buildings are aging and require ongoing maintenance and investment. Deferred repairs, rising costs, and the realities of operating on a remote island put constant pressure on our budget and our staff. Compounding these challenges is the continued loss and reduction of grant funding for cultural arts and humanities at the state and national level. These funding shifts require us to think creatively, diversify our support, and rely even more on local engagement and private generosity to sustain programs that matter to our community.

Another challenge is ensuring that our work remains relevant and accessible. Preserving history is not just about protecting artifacts or maintaining buildings. It is about telling stories in ways that resonate today and inspire future generations. Community engagement is central to that effort. We are actively seeking fresh ideas, new voices, and broader participation to help shape how Island history is shared and celebrated.

Looking ahead to 2026, our vision is both practical and hopeful. We are focused on strengthening the foundation of the Historical Society so it can thrive for decades to come. That means investing in facilities, improving accessibility, and planning responsibly for maintenance rather than reacting to emergencies. It also means aligning our programming with clear strategic goals and offering high quality experiences that connect people to Beaver Island history in meaningful ways.

The coming years also present a unique opportunity as the nation prepares to mark the United States Semiquincentennial, the 250th anniversary of our country. We see this as a moment to reflect on Beaver Island's place within the broader American story and to explore it through local perspectives, diverse experiences, and creative programming. We invite the community to be part of this conversation and to share ideas for how we might commemorate this milestone here on Beaver Island in ways that are thoughtful, inclusive, and true to our Island character.

The Beaver Island Historical Society is also proud to work alongside the Northern Islander and others committed to "Keeping Local Journalism Alive". Community newspapers serve as a vital forum for shared information, dialogue, and accountability, especially in rural places like ours. They are often called the first draft of history, capturing everyday moments, debates, and voices that later become the record future generations rely upon.

Most of all, our vision forward centers on stewardship of history, of place, and of trust. The Beaver Island Historical Society exists because generations before us cared enough to save stories, protect landmarks, and pass on knowledge. Our task now is to carry that legacy forward with care, transparency, and collaboration.

Thank you to everyone who supports this work in ways large and small. Your time, ideas, encouragement, and generosity make it possible for the Historical Society to continue preserving and sharing Beaver Island's remarkable history today and into the future.

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SENIORS FIND CHRISTMAS TREE

Pictured are Beaver Island Community School seniors Kira Turner, Sophie McDonough, Izzy DeLaat, Lexi Pease, and Lysander McGinnity.

Do you have a story to share?

Email it to our Editor!
editor@beaverislandhistory.org

BAY NORTH REALTY

37759 King's Highway
Beaver Island

This 1902 island gem, known as the McCann House, is a well preserved example of island architecture of the past. You will love many original features such as the stamped metal ceiling in the living and dining rooms, fine woodwork, original wood floors and door hardware, large windows, and views of the harbor from many rooms in the house. Enjoy watching sunrises from the kitchen table, or out on the front porch. With four bedrooms, and two baths, this is a spacious home for summer or year-round living. Zoned Harbor District, this property can be used for residential and/or business. With close proximity to everything in-town living has to offer, this is a convenient location on a nice sized (.5 acre) lot. There is a gazebo and newer deck on the back of the house for dining, entertaining, and stargazing. If you are a gardener, you will love the roses, hydrangeas, and lilac bushes. Come make this unique island home, with lots of historic charm, your own!

Heather Robinson, Associate Broker

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STANDING WITH OUR FRIEND, LAURA GREEN

By Vicky Fingeroot

For more than 20 years, I've had the privilege of calling Laura Green a friend. Many on Beaver Island know Laura through Flattail Furs, the business she and her husband Mark Valente built with creativity, hard work, and a deep love for this island. Now, as Laura faces the difficult journey of breast cancer treatment, our community is coming together to support her just as she has supported so many of us over the years.

In December, the community held a spaghetti dinner fundraiser, and the turnout was a beautiful reminder of how much Laura means to this island. So many people showed up with kindness, generosity, and prayers—a true reflection of the heart of Beaver Island.

A GoFundMe has also been created to help Laura and Mark with the significant costs of treatment and travel. For those who wish to contribute or share, the link is: https://www.gofundme.com/f/stand-with-laura-green-beat-cancer-together

Laura is strong, determined, and wrapped in the love of her island community. I know she feels every bit of support, and I'm grateful to everyone who continues to stand with her.

KEITH'S BEAVER ISLAND ADVENTURE

By Keith Marsh and foster parents, Joshua and Alesia Johnson

The following article is an update from Beaver Island Community School 6th grader Keith Marsh, written with the help of his foster parents, visiting pastor Joshua Johnson and his wife, Alesia Johnson, regarding an accident that took place on Beaver Island in late November.

Hi, my name is Keith Marsh. I am eleven, and I am in Mrs. Robert's 5th & 6th grade class at BI School. I came to Beaver Island in mid-November to stay with my foster parents, Josh and Alesia, in the log cabin house (parsonage) next to the Christian Church. I am from Caro, Michigan. Josh is a Methodist pastor and has been filling in for a few months here. There are nine kids, counting me, in Mrs. Roberts' class. There are more boys than girls, and I made some new friends.

The day after Thanksgiving, I was riding my bike way too fast and without a helmet. Boys my age don't usually wear helmets. There was a truck with a snowplow on it, and I was going down the hill by the post office when I slid.

The next thing I remember, I was in an ambulance, being wrapped up like a burrito, with blood everywhere. Then we rode on a plane to the other side, and I ended up in the hospital. I got some stitches that might make a cool-looking scar, broke my cheekbone (ouch), and lost some teeth. It could have been so much worse. [Thanks be to God - Josh]

After we got out of the hospital, we were at the airport when the weather got bad, and we got stranded for two days. Alesia went with me by plane to Charlevoix and didn't have her purse, wallet, or phone. Josh handed her the cash he had in his wallet and the wrong card—an expired one. It was a mess, with no car and little money, trying to figure everything out. Josh could pay for some things by phone, but then other people started helping. My teacher was also stuck on the other side and brought us goodies and snacks. Someone drove us to the hotel and back so we could fly a couple of days later.

When we got back, there was a bunch of stuff at the house that people brought over for me—soft foods like pudding and Jell-O, and some cool Beaver Island (BI) "merch" (slang for Beaver Island T-shirts and items that say BI). Lots of food and supplies. A lot of people prayed for me and checked on me. I went to school the next day, and it was like I was famous, like Harry Potter. Ever since then, everyone, everywhere on BI knows me. A lot of people already knew me in the couple of weeks before my injury, but now I am famous.

Yes, I now know not to ride a bike in winter, not to go fast on anything down a winter hill, and to (wink, wink) always wear a helmet, at least until I am out of sight of Josh and Alesia.

I like school here and wish we could stay forever. We go exploring some days after school and walk the dog a lot. I was in the Elks Free Throw Contest and got a trophy. I was the only kid in my level, but a trophy is a trophy. And of course, I go to every church service with Josh and Alesia. I even got to light candles for Advent.

Thanks for welcoming us to Beaver Island and for all your support and care after Keith's injury. - The Johnson's

DARK SKY ADVENTURE CONTEST WINNER AT THE NEA BIG READ!

By Cynthia Hector Johnson

Brenda Ficeli was the sole entry and the winner of the December Dark Sky Adventure at the Beaver Island District Library. Brenda won a beautiful "Astrid the Astrology Bat" plush toy!

Held in collaboration with the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) Big Read Program grant that was awarded to the library through the efforts of Jacqueline LaFreniere, the library joined the Beaver Island Dark Sky Project in its preservation efforts by supporting the contest hosted at the library.

Contestants were required to complete one task from a list of possible entry qualifiers in order to be registered to win.

They could obtain a free book from the library. Multiple copies of "The Bear" by Andrew Krivak were purchased with some of the grant money awarded to support an entire season of activities to be offered at the library. These activities were designed to bring attention to reading overall and are planned each year around a theme from the NEA.

"Our Nature: How Our Physical Environment Can Lead Us to Seek Hope, Courage, and Connection" is the 2025–2026 theme, and "The Bear" is one of the books that could be chosen as a focus in accordance with events and activities throughout the year.

Dark Sky Project committee members provided a letter of support to the library, agreeing to help promote the grant activities and join in the fun.

"The Bear," with its stunning Ursa Major and Big Dipper constellations on the cover, and its theme of finding direction and survival in the wilderness, seemed relevant and relatable to early survival and navigational methods that are still possible in dark skies by following the Big Dipper, also known as the Bear.
Pictured is Brenda Ficeli, the winner of Astrid the Bat.

Due to delays in gathering entries, the contest will continue through January 15, when another drawing will be held. Please visit the Beaver Island Dark Sky Project and Beaver Island State Wildlife Research Area International Dark Sky Sanctuary social media pages and events for details, and register for the drawing at the Beaver Island District Library.

There are many ways to enter and many prizes left to win. Call Cynthia Johnson at 231-350-8792 with any questions or inquire at the library.

BEAVER ISLAND WILDLIFE CLUB NEWS

By Jacque LaFreniere

ICE FISHING TOURNAMENT SCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY 21!

The 11th Annual Lake G. Ice Fishing Tournament will be held the weekend of February 21, weather and ice permitting, of course. Anyone wishing to donate toward prizes should contact Levi Connor. We are looking to expand the tournament—more food, more games, and more fun! More details will follow in the February edition of the Northern Islander.

WATER AND HABITAT MONITORING PROGRAM

The Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program covered three island inland lakes last summer. We are looking to expand monitoring to Barney's Lake and Greene's Lake next summer. Interested? There is a time commitment and training required. Contact Shelby Harris.

HARBOR FISHING PIER MOVES AHEAD

A potential fishing pier located in the harbor by the Marine Museum is in the works. We are looking for funding at this time through grants and donations. This would be a collaboration with St. James Township and, of course, the Beaver Island Historical Society. Some of the engineering studies have been completed. Stay tuned for more information coming soon.

Beaver Island District Library

Nibwaakaawin

UPCOMING NEA BIG READ EVENTS:

A virtual visit with the author of The Bear, Andrew Krivak, is scheduled for January 26 at 7 p.m. at the Library. A Zoom link will be available for those off-island or unable to attend in person. Contact the library for the link.

Andrew Krivak is the author of five novels, two chapbooks of poetry, and two works of nonfiction. His 2011 debut novel, The Sojourn, was a National Book Award finalist and winner of both the Dayton Literary Peace Prize for fiction and the inaugural Chautauqua Prize. He is currently a visiting lecturer in creative writing at Harvard University.

SURVIVAL MOVIES FOR JANUARY – AT THE COMMUNITY CENTER

For kids, 3 p.m.: Far From Home: The Adventures of Yellow Dog, a survival story of a young boy and his dog who are stranded in the wilderness of British Columbia. They must survive as they find their way home.

For adults, 6 p.m.: The Grey Following a plane crash in the remote Alaska wilderness, the group must survive, fight wolves, and withstand hunger as they try to return to civilization.

BOBI BOOK DISCUSSION:

[Bookies on Beaver Island] The Bear, January 21 at 3 p.m. at the Library. Zoom will be available; contact the library for the link.

LOCAL AUTHOR WORKSHOP:

Acacia Warmerdam will continue the discussion on the querying process, publishing, and the writing process on January 10 at 2 p.m. at the library.

AMERICA 250 WRITING BEGINS:

As a condition of receiving the grant, we were asked to create something that represents the 250th anniversary of our country's birth. We decided to focus our efforts on another publication on the theme "What America Means to Me," or alternately, "What Is the Best Thing About America?"

We are asking both the community and the school to create submissions, which we will compile into a publication. Submissions are due at the end of April.

Send to the library email island.library@gmail.com. PDFs are greatly appreciated.

WINTER SOWING:

In January, the elementary school kids will once again participate in winter sowing to grow plants for the BIDL Native Plant Garden.

BEAVER TALES: SURVIVING ON THE ISLAND

Let's get together on January 24 at 3 p.m. to start planning. What is Beaver Tales? Started many years ago as an alternative to a full-scale theatrical production, Beaver Tales revolves around a theme, and locals present songs and stories to support that theme. In the past, we have performed three productions: the first was A House Party, the second was Travel To or On the Island (anyone remember the "Wave Song" we learned?), and the third was The Shoe Tree.

The theme this time will be SURVIVAL. So, get your thinking caps on, get creative, and attend the planning session on January 24! We may have ideas or readings you might choose to present if you cannot think of anything yourself. Many of the older Beaver Beacons (we have a collection of them at the Library) had great stories too. See you on the 24th at the Library. We are looking at an April production date, and perhaps another this summer as well.

DARK SKY EVENTS:

January 10 – Jupiter at Opposition. The giant planet will be at its closest approach to the Earth, and its face will be fully illuminated by the sun. It will be brighter than at any other time of the year and visible all night long. This is the best time to view Jupiter and its moons with just a pair of binoculars!

MI HUMANITIES – GREAT MICHIGAN READ:

Everything I Learned, I Learned in a Chinese Restaurant by Curtis Chin. BIDL was selected to receive two "book club" kits of 10 books each, along with discussion questions and bookmarks. We will share with other libraries, and the BOBI is planning to read the book this winter.

THAT ALL MAY READ – JANUARY IS BRAILLE LITERACY MONTH:

BIDL is a demo site for the Braille and Talking Book Library (BTBL). Check with BIDL to apply for this free service. Eligibility of blind and other print-disabled persons for loan of library materials may also be found by logging on to: www.loc.gov/nls/about/eligibility-for-nls-services

ALL AGES: Learn how to "write" your name in braille through an activity facilitated by Ms. Tara on January 26 during the Craft Monday afterschool program (3:30–5 p.m.).

AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMMING: Monday–Friday, 3:30–5 p.m.

Taste the World is a culinary adventure that takes place every Tuesday after school. We sample snacks from all over the world. We are currently discovering snacks from Germany. Violet Walsh is teaching us how to speak some German, such as "This tastes good" or "This tastes bad." Previously, we sampled bites from the Netherlands. Our number-one pick was the Danish Oat Cookies. We invite you to join us every Tuesday to take part in a delicious program!

Teen Art Night will be January 15, Thursday, from 7–8:30 p.m. Kids ages 13 and older are welcome to create their own string art. Light snacks will be provided.

Babies and Toddlers takes place all winter long. Tuesdays at 10 a.m.—bring your little ones to get some energy out. We have lots of toys, books, and even climbing toys.

Homeschool Meetup takes place every Tuesday at 2:15 p.m. This is a great time for our homeschool community to gather for reading, crafts, and fun. This is open to all homeschool families.

FIERO CODE CLUB AND GIRLS WHO CODE CLUB

The club meets on Saturdays at 1 p.m. Fiero Code Club is for ages 8 and up and teaches youngsters how to code through a gaming format. Girls Who Code is specifically targeted toward girls in elementary through high school. Think Girl Scouts meets coding club. It is an opportunity for girls to work together to learn coding and other computer-related skills. Both are FREE for kids!

SEED LIBRARY NEWS: NATIVE SEEDS ARE IN!

The Library has restocked the Seed Library with some of the native plant seeds represented in our Native Plant Garden. These are perfect for winter sowing, as they require cold stratification—meaning they need to be in the cold winter air in order to sprout in the spring. We have created a step-by-step display detailing how to create your own winter sowing containers. Check it out!

OUR HOLIDAY SOCIAL TREE

LADY ISLANDERS WIN BIG AT GREAT LAKES ISLAND TOURNAMENT

By Nicole Olson, Lady Islanders Basketball Coach

The boys' varsity Islanders kicked off the 2025–2026 season at the Great Lakes Island Tournament on December 12 and 13. Starting players for the boys included Lucas Pease, Lysander McGinnity, Parker DeLaat, Collin McGee, and Tyler Bousque. The team roster also included Nathan Huttenlocker, Ryley Maudrie, and Bryson Megie. While they didn't pull out the win against Put-In-Bay, you could see the growth and improved strength from the previous season. It's a well-rounded team that trailed Mackinac in the last game by ten points for most of the game. A few missed passes and a turnover were all that stood between the Lakers and Islanders. The game showcased the Islanders' quick and decisive moves. Words like gritty, resilient, and unity come to mind while watching this young team connect and work together to kick off the season.

The girls won the home opener against Put-in-Bay 44–6. The starting lineup included Alexis Pease, Sophie McDonough, Amber McGee, Madeline McGee, and Kira Turner. Though the team has a short bench, additional powerhouse players include Izzy DeLaat, X Duffing, and, new to the Island, Shawnee and Carlee Hoernke. Haylie Pease has been injured but was able to test her knee in the first game and then rested it for the next two games.

The Lady Islanders beat Washington Island 44–25 in their second game. The game to remember was the girls' last game against the Mackinac Island Lakers. The Islanders led by five points through most of the game until the last few minutes, when they were neck and neck. A controversial shot from Mackinac went in at the buzzer to tie the game, sending play into overtime. Islanders had three players foul out: Lexi Pease, Amber McGee, and Kira Turner. Subbing in was a powerhouse team of X Duffing, Izzy DeLaat, and Shawnee. The team could not have pulled off the win without teamwork and perseverance. Kira scored the tie-breaking basket, and Izzy sank a much-needed free throw after being fouled, putting the Islanders ahead and scoring the game-winning shot. X provided the defense needed under the basket, while Shawnee stretched her arms out and used her height when needed. The team came together, and after the winning basket was scored, excited fans rushed the court.

Through this excitement, the tournament was defined not by the win but by these four teams coming together and supporting one another. They worked together, and they cheered for each other, both on and off the court. The Community Center hosted a team dinner, followed by a variety of fun games in which each player had to rely on a fellow team member from another school. Teams showed they can compete together but also rely on one another off the court. Mackinac Island will host the tournament next year, so make your reservations early and come be a part of this great consortium. It was nice to see the growth and development all teams showed.

ISLANDERS 25-26 ROSTER

BOYS BASKETBALL (ISLANDERS)	GIRLS BASKETBALL (LADY ISLANDERS)
Lysander McGinnity	Izzabella DeLaat
Parker DeLaat	Shawnee Hoernke
Nathan Huttenlocker	Sophie McDonough
Lucas Pease	Alexis Pease
Tyler Bousquet	Kira Turner
Collin McGee	Amberlin McGee
Bryson Megie	Haley Pease
Ryley Maudrie	Xandra Duffing
	Caylee Hoernke
Coach: Chris McGee	Madeline McGee
	Coach: Nicole Olson

2025-2026 BEAVER ISLAND GIRLS & BOYS BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

December 12 & 13	Beaver Island @ Great Lakes Tournament – Beaver Island (Boys & Girls)
January 9 &10	Beaver Island @ Ojibwe (Boys & Girls)
January 14th	Beaver Island @ Paradise (Boys)
January 16 & 17	Mackinac Island @ Beaver Island (Boys & Girls)
January 23 &24	Beaver Island @ Big Bay De Noc (Boys & Girls)
January 26 &27	Munising Baptist @ Beaver Island (Boys)
January 30 & 31	Hannahville @ Beaver Island (Boys & Girls)
February 7th& 8th	Beaver Island @ Maplewood Baptist (Boys & Girls)
February 11	Beaver Island @ Grand Marais (Boys)
February 14	Northern Lights League Tournament @ Lake Superior State University(Boys & Girls)

HOME GAMES:
Friday - Girls game starts at 5:30 pm, boys game to follow.
Saturday - Girls game starts at 8:30 am, boys game to follow.

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Tried and True Family Favorite Recipes

Jo Lynn Anderson's Smoked Sausage, Butternut Squash, and Wild Rice Soup

Submitted by Rach Becker

Each month, we will feature recipes that are sure to have you coming back for seconds. These are the recipes that we grew up with and still make today.

Jo Lynne (Armstrong) Anderson was born in Battle Creek, Michigan, to Bob and Margie (Martin) Armstrong.

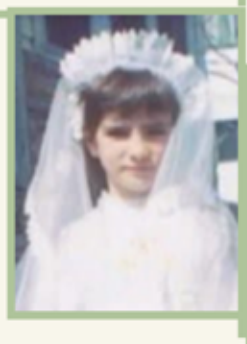
She spent many summers of her youth on Beaver Island and later moved there full-time when her son, Roger, was less than a year old. A few years later, her daughter Kayla was born. The kids attended school on Beaver Island until the mid-1990s, when Jo Lynne began nursing school at Northwestern Michigan College. She was a nurse for many years in the orthopedic unit at Munson Medical Center until her retirement.

This recipe is by American chef and restaurateur Emeril Lagasse and is one that Jo Lynne found and often made with her dad. Bob passed away in 2006.

Blasta! (Irish for delicious)

Ingredients:

- 2 medium butternut squash (3–4 pounds total), peeled, seeded, and cut into 1-inch chunks
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- Salt
- Freshly ground black pepper
- 12 cups chicken stock
- 2 ½ cups chopped onions
- 1 cup wild rice
- ¾ pound smoked sausage, such as kielbasa, cut into ¼-inch pieces
- 2 cups fresh corn kernels
- 1 ½ cups half-and-half
- 1 tablespoon fresh chopped parsley leaves



Instructions:

Preheat oven to 400°F. Toss squash with 1 tablespoon olive oil, salt, and pepper. Roast on a baking sheet for 45 minutes to 1 hour, or until tender. Cool, then purée with 2 cups chicken stock until smooth; set aside.

In a saucepan, simmer 4 cups stock with ½ cup onions. Add wild rice and cook until tender and liquid is absorbed, about 1 hour. Remove and set aside.

In a large pot, heat remaining 1 tablespoon oil over medium heat. Brown sausage for 3 minutes, then add remaining onions and corn; sauté 3 minutes. Add remaining 6 cups stock and squash purée. Bring to a boil, reduce heat, cover, and simmer 20 minutes, skimming fat if needed. Stir in rice and cook 10 minutes more. Remove from heat, stir in half-and-half, season to taste, add parsley, and serve.

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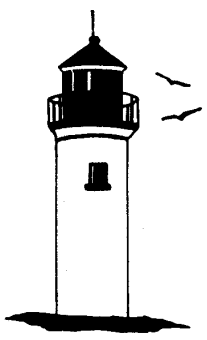

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The Blumenthal Home

Like-new home that has been kept in excellent condition. This home is on the South end of Cable's Bay with 214 feet of what has almost always been nice sandy beach. It is a two bedroom, one bath home with a full basement. An almost all-glass front provides a "Million Dollar" view of the lake. The Andersen window wall sliders were replaced in 2020. The owners also put new 30-year shingles on the house in 2020. The windows throughout the house are Andersens. Very nice, large deck area on the front (lakeside) of the house. The home looks across East Side Drive but the part of the lot between the road and the water's edge is very deep with secluded beach use areas. A stairway and decking on the beachside was built in 2018. The lakeside part of the lot has been opened to provide a beautiful view of Lake Michigan across the lake front lot. New screening was put on the side porch in 2021. There is easy-care laminate flooring in the great room with a knotty pine cathedral ceiling. There is an outdoor shower with decking on the back of the house. There is a detached storage shed on the North side of the house. The home has Dimplex multi-zone wireless controlled baseboard heating installed in 2018. Almost all of the appliances are 4-5 years old. For your coziness and enjoyment there is a centrally located Vermont Castings Resolute stove; it heats the entire main floor with just a few logs. To appreciate this home you have to see its remarkable setup and all of its features. The Cable's Bay Public Beach Park and the Lake Geneserath Boat Launch are both just 1 1/4 miles up the road. The Iron Ore Bay Public Beach and the Beaver Head Lighthouse are just a four minute drive south. Take your golf cart to a big sandy beach north or south or use your own beach. The raw land value of this property is over $150,000., so this offering is really a bargain at the asking price of only **$435,000.**

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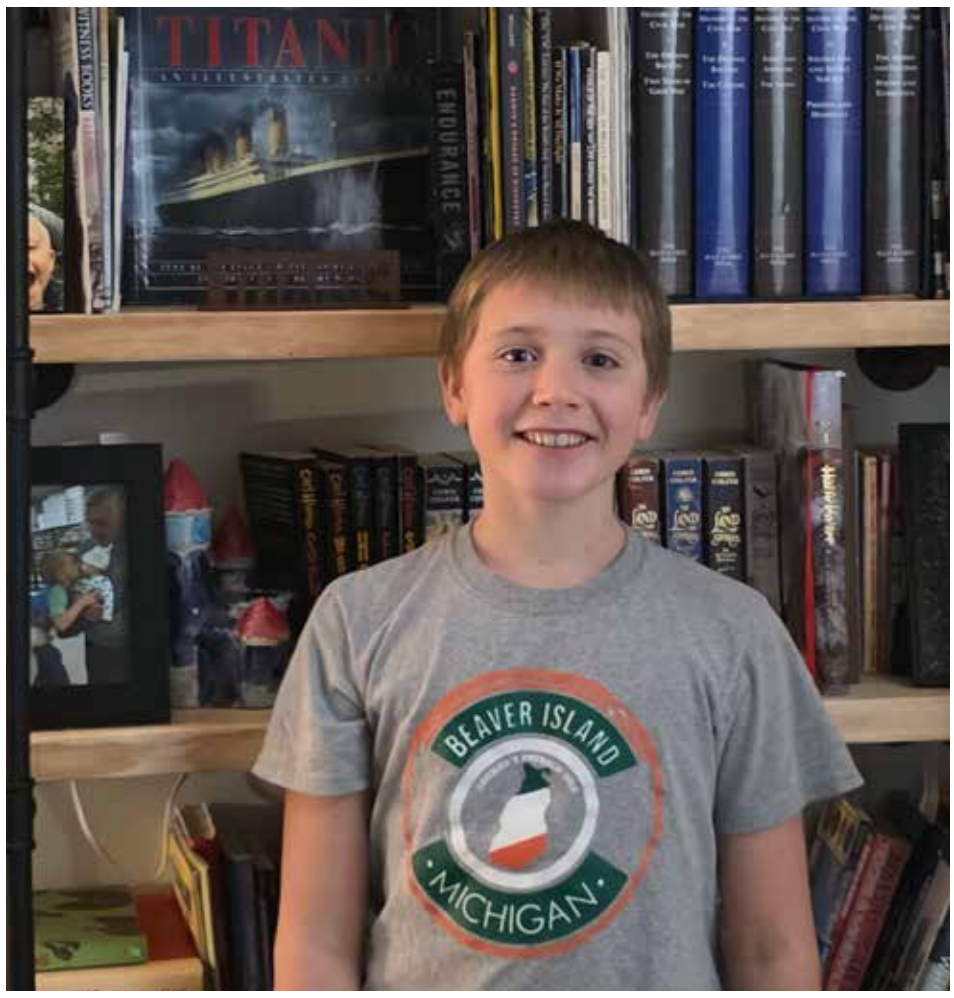
ON THE FRONT PORCH WITH CONNOR J. MCDONOUGH

By Michelle LaFreniere



By the time you read this, Connor will be 11 years old. He is the youngest person I have ever interviewed, but wow—what a kid! I interviewed Connor 10 days before his 11th birthday. He was quite excited about it, and Christmas soon after. I'd say he was the best early Christmas present his parents, Drew and Thayer McDonough, ever received.

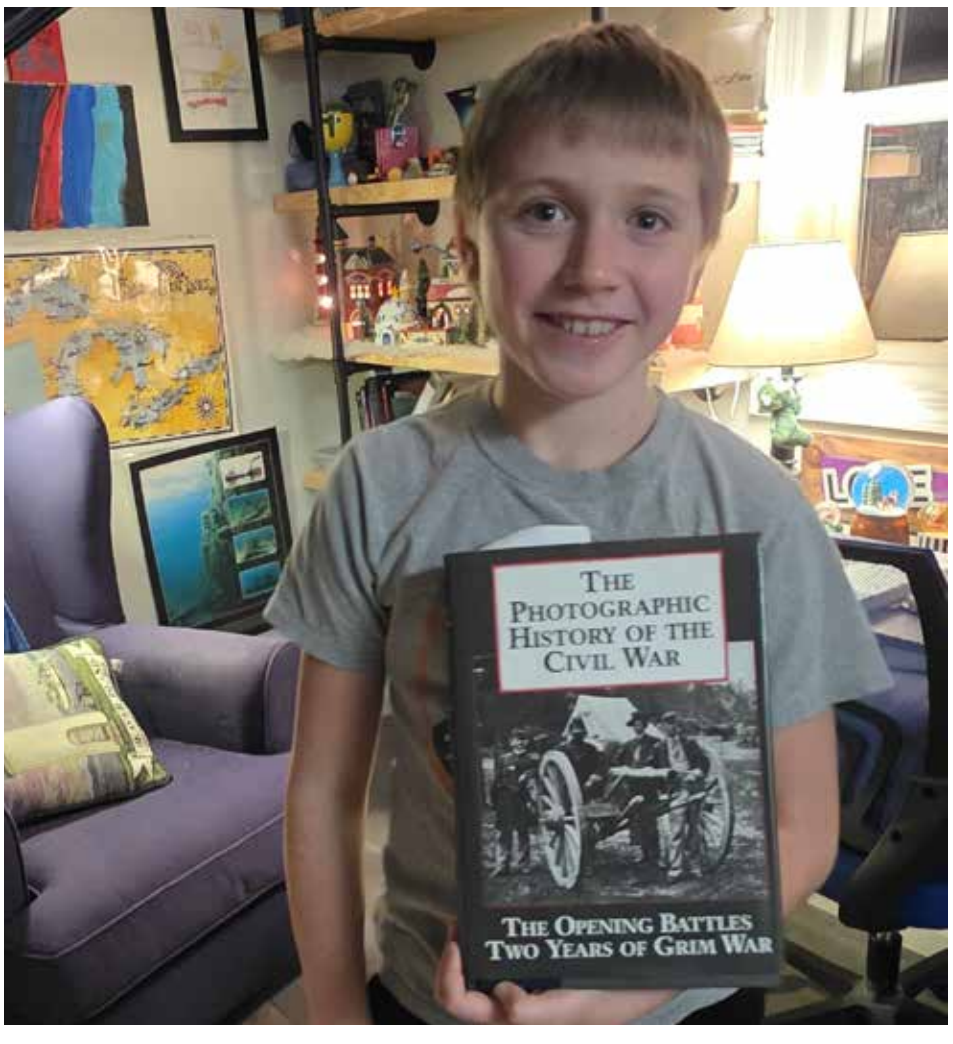
His parents are two of my favorite humans, so it would only be expected that I would love Connor, too. With his parents, he moved to the Island when he was almost three. Prior to that, he lived in Chicago. He doesn't remember a lot about those years, but he does remember visiting the aquarium and the Museum of Science and Industry. He still loves to visit Chicago, but it's mostly because his cousins, Mackenzie and Trevor, live there.

Have you heard of that game show, "Are You Smarter than a 5th Grader?" My answer is definitely not. He is in Mrs. Roberts' class at Beaver Island Community School. He loves school. His favorite subject is Social Studies. He is excited to be in her class again next year because it means he gets two trips off Island. They haven't started practicing for the annual play yet, but he is looking forward to that. He got to be in it last year as a 4th grader.

He is smart. He loves history. He rattled off so many facts about World War I and World War II and their battleships—their names, where they are now, and, if they were lost, where and when that was. My head was spinning. I wish I knew that kind of stuff. I guess I better get reading.

Speaking of reading, he has read 100 books between January and November. He loves reading so much that sometimes he reads more than one book at a time. His grandpa, Tim McDonough, said that often when he goes to their house early in the morning, Connor will be curled up in his room, reading away.

His room is so cool. His handy-dandy mom built him some new bookshelves recently, and he wasted no time filling them with a nice selection of old books that came from his Grandpa Kamp, as well as some newer ones. His friend Denny from the store gave him an amazing collection of history books that he is itching to dive into. He loves all kinds of books. His other favorites include fantasy, science, and space. He has a hammock suspended from the ceiling that he likes to get into to read. My favorite thing in his room was a LEGO model of the battleship Endurance. It is over 3,000 pieces. The instruction book was 417 pages long. It took him a total of 12 and a half hours to complete it. You should see this thing. Amazing—just amazing.



Another thing that Connor really enjoys is spending time with his family (This was the first thing he mentioned when asked about what else he enjoys). Melt my heart. He is such a sweet boy. His favorite holiday is Christmas. He loves their Christmas tree. It really is a gorgeous tree.

He has a younger brother, Owen, who is seven years old. Connor was very patient with him when I visited. Younger brothers aren't always easy. Mine sure wasn't, but he grew up to be my best friend. I see that happening here, too.

His favorite season is winter because of, obviously, his birthday and Christmas. He also loves the snow and ice—snow because he likes to build snow forts, and ice because he likes ice skating, too. His dad and I laughed and talked about the snow fort building of our youth and how we somehow lived to tell about it. Connor likes to build the same kind we did. It made me want to build one again.

Their home is on a nice beach, so he enjoys that in the summer months. Other things he looks forward to next summer are his Chicago cousins coming to visit and the Homecoming ball tournament. He is a scorekeeper when his family's team plays. I asked if he was looking for a promotion to bat boy, but he isn't really interested in that. He thinks he will play for the team when he turns 14. That's about the age his dad was when he started playing.

He likes to travel. He has enjoyed visiting both Chicago and Florida. His favorite, however, was the Grand Tetons. Connor and his parents hiked up to Inspiration Point. It looked like it was a long way up the mountain, but when they got there, they realized it was only one-quarter of the way up. He would like to explore Canada or Norway next. Stateside, he would like to visit Pearl Harbor. He pointed out that it had occurred 84 years ago that day.

His Great-Grandma Skip was from Norway, and Connor informed me that she and Grandma Stout were the best. I think we can all agree with that.

Looking forward, he thinks he may like to be a sailor in the Navy.

For now, his goal is to save $700 to buy a Titanic LEGO kit. It has over 10,000 pieces. He likes bagging groceries and stocking shelves. Good thing he knows people there. He also makes greeting cards. I've bought several over the last couple of years. If they are in stock, they are displayed at the meat counter. Shop local. It is worth it. He is worth it.

I so enjoyed my visit with Connor. What a great kid. His sense of humor is just like his dad's and Grandpa Tim's. If you know them at all, you know what I mean.

COMFORT KEEPERS EXPANDS IN-HOME CARE SERVICES ON BEAVER ISLAND

By Bethany Korbel

Since launching its services on Beaver Island in May 2025, Comfort Keepers has already supported nine local seniors with personalized in-home care—and the organization is making plans to expand its team and services in the coming year.

Comfort Keepers, a national provider of non-medical home care, began operating on the Island to help older adults maintain independence and quality of life in their own homes. Services offered include companionship, personal care, Alzheimer's and dementia care, post-hospital support, and respite for family caregivers.

In just a few months, Comfort Keepers has assisted island residents in a variety of meaningful ways—from providing ongoing support for those with chronic conditions to helping with recovery after hospital stays. In one case, a caregiver met a senior at the airport on the mainland after a flight from Beaver Island, escorted her to a medical appointment, and ensured she made it back to the airport for her return trip home.

Comfort Keepers has also introduced the CK Wellness Hub, a new connected-care platform now available to island clients. The Wellness Hub combines in-home technology, health monitoring, and communication tools to support seniors living independently — safely and confidently. Features include video calling on the TV, medication and wellness reminders, curated video content for health and rehabilitation, and Bluetooth-enabled monitoring for movement and vitals. This platform provides caregivers, family, and even medical professionals with real-time visibility, helping reduce unplanned medical visits and giving loved ones peace of mind.

One of the first local caregivers hired, Lonnie Allen, shared how meaningful the work has been. "It's been great since our rollout in May," Allen said. "I've even helped out on the mainland when I have doctor's appointments. I've been really happy with the people I've gotten to help, and it's been a joy to get to know different families on the island and hear their stories. Also, the support from Comfort Keepers is amazing—I just don't have words to describe it."

In preparation for the seasonal increase in care needs, Comfort Keepers' HR Manager Adrienne Hope confirmed that new staff recruitment and training is underway. "We have gathered new applicants and plan to orient and train new employees this winter to get set up for success this summer," she said.

Comfort Keepers extended a special thank you to the Beaver Island Rural Health Center for their support in helping launch the service locally. The Health Center not only provided community connection but also allowed Comfort Keepers to use their facility for caregiver training. "Their partnership has been instrumental in helping us get established on the island and reach the seniors who need us most," said Bethany Korbel, local representative of Comfort Keepers.

Comfort Keepers of Beaver Island operates as part of the Petoskey office and is actively hiring caregivers who live on the island or travel between the island and the mainland. Caregivers receive training, flexible scheduling, and ongoing support from the office team.

Community members who are exploring care options for a loved one can schedule a no-cost consultation to learn more about how in-home care and the CK Wellness Hub can support aging in place. For more information or to apply for a caregiver position, visit www.ComfortKeepersPetoskey.com or call 231-929-9044.

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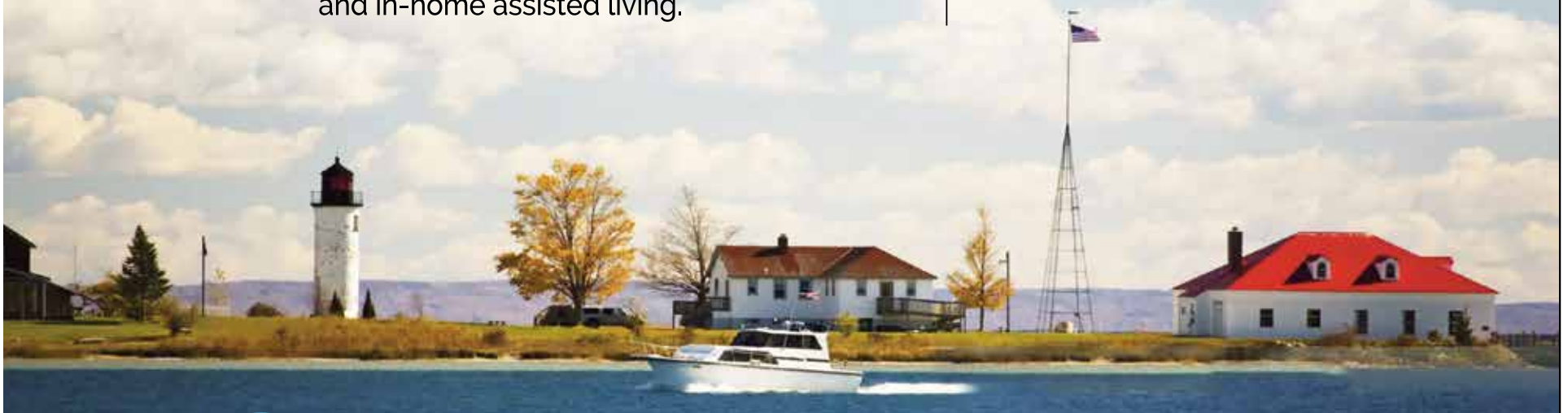

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D’ANDRAIA TO REMAIN RURAL HEALTH CENTER BOARD CHAIR UNTIL JANUARY 1, 2027

By Elsie Burton

The Board of Directors of the Beaver Island Rural Health Center (BIRHC) announced a one-year extension of the term of office for Frank D’Andraia, President of the BIRHC Board. His leadership of the board will now end on January 1, 2027. The nine member board asked D’Andraia to continue in his role as the Center prepares for transition to new leadership.

Frank joined the BIRHC board in 2019 and was elected president in 2020. He succeeded Don Spencer as President. D’Andraia, when asked about the extensions, commented, “It has been my privilege to have served on the Board and I am deeply grateful for the collaboration and support of my fellow Board members and the members of the BIRHC Team. Together, we have navigated meaningful milestones, and I am confident that the Center is well-positioned to achieve growth in both the near and long term, ensuring convenient quality care close to home continues to be available to Beaver Island residents”

During the same meeting that extended D’Andraia’s term, the board re-elected Dr. Bradford Grassmick to a second three-year term as a director and voted to approve Connie Wojan to chair the committee charged with finding a new board president.

Brad Grassmick is a retired physician who resides full time in Beaver Island’s Peaine Township. Doctor Grassmick has brought a wealth of relevant experience to his role as a BIRHC director. He has well over 40 years of medical experience and significant and meaningful involvement in rural health care as both a provider and volunteer. He has was affiliated with the Helen Newberry Joy Hospital, a rural health care facility located in the Village of Newberry in the eastern Upper Peninsula of Michigan and at the Aspirus Iron River Hospital & Clinics Inc., also in the UP, as well as substantial history of volunteer work in Beaver Island’s health care sector.

Connie Wojan, a resident of St. James Township, possesses a distinguished record of volunteerism. She is passionate about community service and has chaired several community boards following her interest in education and medical care. Wojan served on the Board of Directors of Beaver Island Community School for 12 years, 11 as president. She was an elected member of the Health Center Board, for 18 years, 15 as President and was appointed a member of the Charlevoix County Community Foundation Board of Trustees for two consecutive three-year terms. In 2025 Connie Wojan celebrated an important milestone, her 25th year of active involvement in the Rita Gillespie Memorial Blood Drive. Wojan indicated the five-member search committee is expected to make a recommendation to the BIRHC Board by late 2026. Information about the search process and the requirements of board presidents are expected to be posted on the BIRHC website in early 2026.

The mission of the Beaver Island Rural Health Center is to provide high-quality, cost effective patient treatment and wellness services and to serve as a primary care facility to the Beaver Island community.

BEAVER ISLAND HEALTH CENTER BOARD

President	Frank D’Andraia
Vice President	Lori Taylor-Blitz
Secretary	Connie Wojan
Treasurer	Rita Peraino
Trustee	Tim O’Connor,
Trustee	Brad Grassmick
Trustee	Paul Cole
Trustee	Leslie Visser
Trustee	Maria Dal Pra

STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA

Pictured are Beaver Island Community School’s 5th & 6th graders with teacher Deb Robert.

CHILDREN’S DENTAL CLINIC

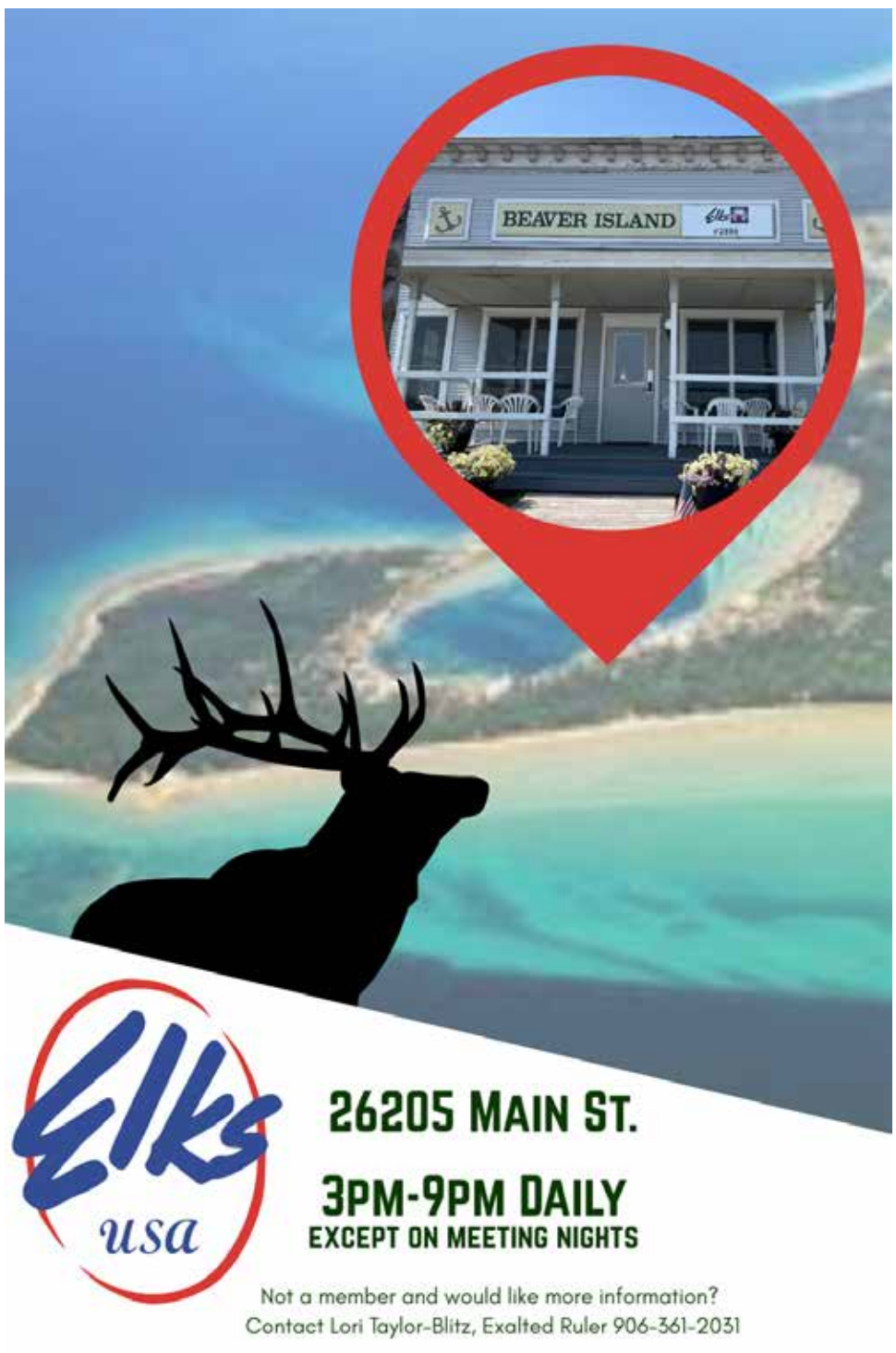
DATE: Febraury 26 & 27

This is a reminder that the upcoming Children’s Dental Clinic is free and open to all children in the community.

For homeschooled students, packets are available at the Beaver Island Rural Health Center.

The date of the Senior Dental Clinic is still to be determined. Packets for seniors are also available at the Beaver Island Rural Health Center.

If you have questions, please call 231-448-2275.



Community Collage

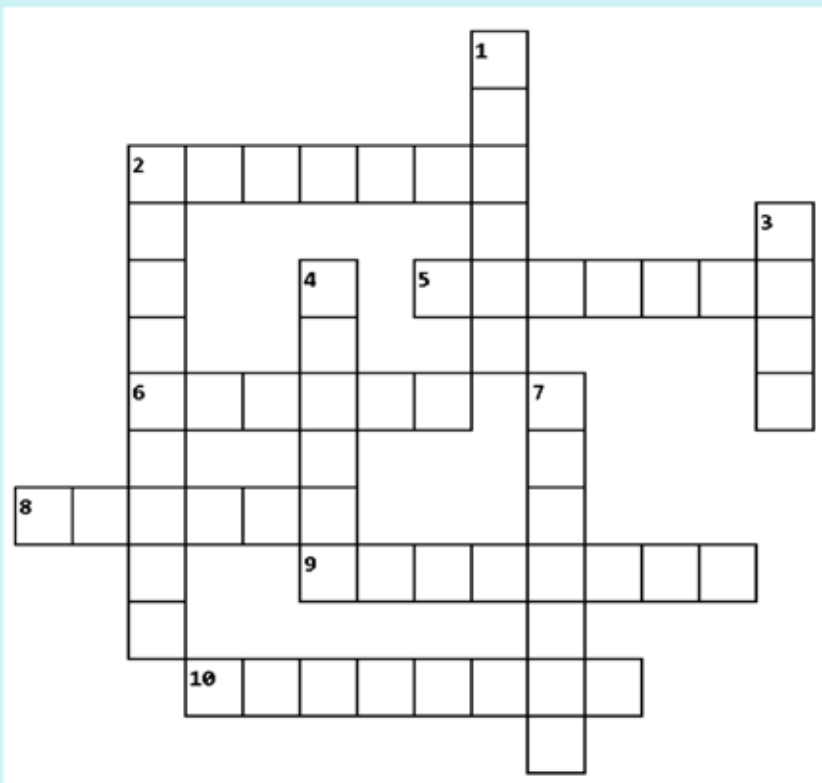
BEAVER ISLAND AT A GLANCE

Photo Credit: George Broder, Beaver Island Community School, TUNES, and Lori Taylor-Blitz

The Kids' Corner

Sponsored by Tracy Paquin and Susan McDermott

Crossword



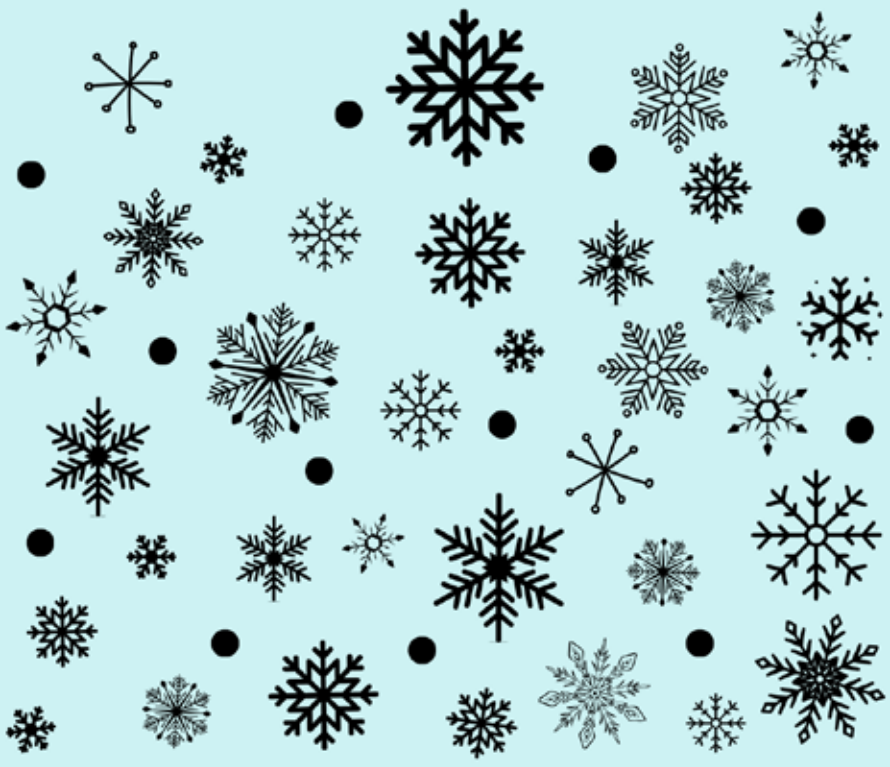
Across

2. he has a carrot nose
5. a black and white arctic bird
6. a sport with two runners
8. a tool to clear the snow
9. keeps the ears warm
10. a big snowstorm

Down

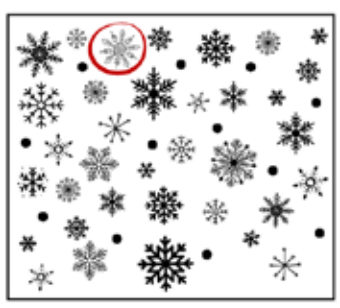
1. the coldest season
2. shoes to walk on top of snow
3. frozen rain
4. ice that hangs from the roof
7. first month of the year

Can you find this snowflake below?



Don't forget to bring your completed kids' page to the Beaver Island Print Shop Museum for a prize!

AND, send a picture of you and your page to **editor@beaverislandhistory.org** to be featured in the monthly paper!



ANSWERS

Across	Down
2. snowman	1. winter
5. penguin	2. snowshoes
6. skiing	3. snow
8. shovel	4. icicle
9. earmuffs	7. January
10. blizzard	

LET'S MAKE HISTORY TOGETHER; WHICH CLAN WILL BE THE 2026 WINNER?

By Kathleen (Kitty) McNamara

Which clan will challenge the Greene/Green Clan which took top honors in 2025, closely followed by the Cull Clan and the Connaghan Clan? Will it be the Boyles, Connaghans, Gallaghers, Gillespies, Martins, McCaffertys, McCanns, McCauley/Malloys, McDonoughs, O'Donnells? Or, a very new clan altogether? Unite your family, rally your clan, and help us create an unforgettable 2026 for the Beaver Island Irish Heritage Group and the Emerald Isle Irish Féile. Mark your calendars now, and let's see which clan rises to the top!

The Calling of the Clans fundraising challenge enters its fourth year as an authentic way to connect Beaver Island families to the Beaver Island Irish Heritage Group (BIIHG) and to the many year-around initiatives the group curates, including its popular signature event EMERALD ISLE IRISH FÉILE (Festival). Beaver Island Irish Heritage Group's stated 501(c)3 mission is to recognize, showcase, and preserve Beaver Island's unique Irish Heritage including its connection to Arranmore Island, County Donegal, Ireland. Speaking of Arranmore and Donegal: the ARRANMORE PIPE BAND will be joining us again in 2026! As if that is not enough, the celebrated band ALTAN will be with us to share their spirit and sound which comes from the deep and rich musical tradition of their native Co. Donegal!

The Calling of the Clans challenge is a fun and slightly competitive way for the Beaver Island diaspora (those who have ever called Beaver Island home or are descendants of those who have) to support the work of the Beaver Island Irish Heritage Group. In 2025, the Calling of the Clans challenge raised $20,000.00 from 145 individual donors. Clan donations came from these historic Island families: Boyle, Connaghan, Gallagher, Gillespie, Green/Greene, Martin, McCafferty, McCann, McCauley/Malloy, McDonough, and O'Donnell. BIIHG extends sincere gratitude to these supporters.

Not a member of one of the historic clans, but have a strong connection to Beaver Island? You can create your own clan and be a part of the evolution of Irish cultural heritage on Beaver Island; you can even develop your own Clan Crest!

Reach out to Kitty McNamara or Kevin Green if you are interested in this idea.

The clan with the most donations by noon on the Saturday, March 14 (almost the Great Day, March 17) 2026, will claim bragging rights for the year and be able to decorate the Emerald Isle Irish Féile's Hearth Area with their family photos and heirlooms; the Greene/Green Clan took honors in 2025 closely followed by the Cull Clan and the Connaghan Clan – who will be the winner this year?? All who generously donate will have their Family Crest showcased at the festival and on the BIIHG website.

For our Calling of the Clans supporters, the festival begins with our Sponsors Premium Event, on Thursday September 10th with a "Holy Hour" event where donors can mingle with members of the Arranmore Pipe Band and other donors! This event kicks off the Féile and is a "thank you" from the BIIHG Board of Directors to our Calling of the Clans Supporters. The "Holy Hour" special event, hosted by Jerry Early, is an American take on a weekly musical gathering at Early's Pub on Arranmore. To secure your spot at the Thursday evening event, contribute at least $50.00 to the clan of your choice. To include a plus-one at the event, contribute at least $100.00.

To become a Calling of the Clans Supporter, please give a gift before noon on March 14, 2026; you can give after that date, but the 2026 Clan Winner will be determined by gifts received at this time. Questions? Email: kevingreen777@gmail.com

BECOME A CALLING OF THE CLANS SUPPORTER IS EASY: Simply complete the transaction on this page: https://www.irish-Féile.com/calling-of-the-clans/ Support the Craic!

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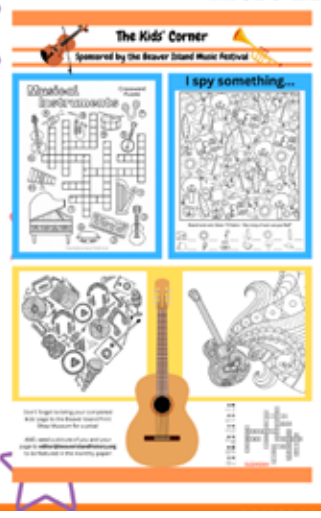

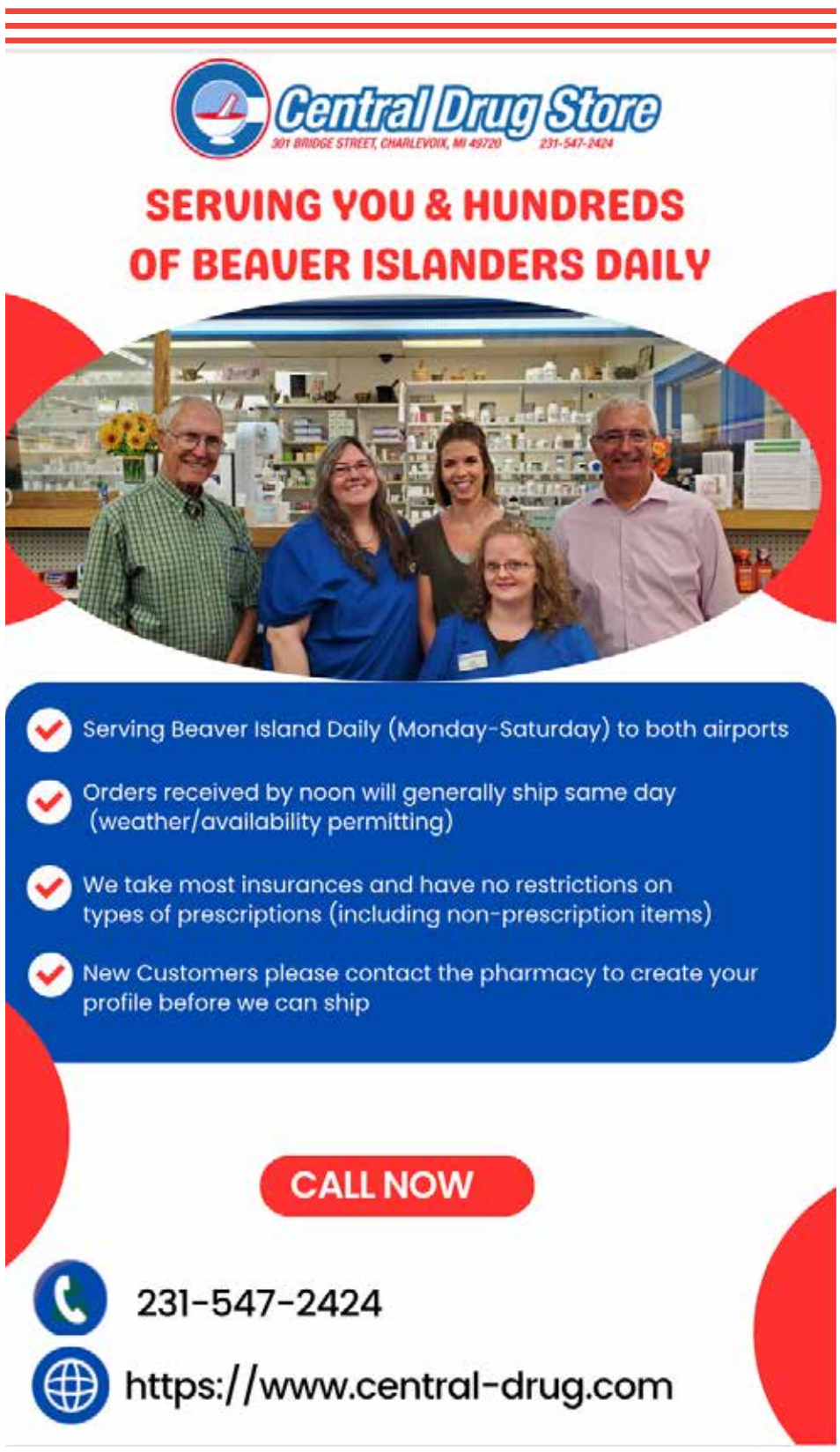
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LONGTIME ISLANDER DICK MULVIHILL SETS SAIL

By Elsie Burton

After fifty years of visiting Beaver Island and ten years of full-time residency, Islander and lifelong sailor Dick Mulvihill is charting a new course. Mulvihill, well known for his maritime knowledge, civic involvement, and deep commitment to improving broadband access on the Island, will be packing up this spring to pursue new sailing adventures.

Mulvihill's connection to Beaver Island began, fittingly, by water. "Fifty years ago, I sailed up to Beaver Island with my kids," he recalled. A three-day trip from Chicago led him to the Emerald Isle, where a small gesture of island hospitality left a lasting impression. A bartender at the Shamrock completely closed the bar just to drive him and his crew to dinner. "I figured, where's that going to happen? It wouldn't happen today," he said with a laugh. "We've been coming back ever since." Over the decades, Beaver Island became central not only to Mulvihill's summers, but to his family. His daughter eventually bought a cottage, and when he retired from Chicago ten years ago, he moved to the Island full time.

Mulvihill's sailing résumé is remarkable. A licensed 50-ton United States Coast Guard captain, he has sailed to nearly every port in Lake Michigan, raced in 37 Chicago-to-Mackinac races, cruised the Chesapeake, and completed long offshore deliveries from Bermuda, Florida, and New England. He has also spent countless days sailing the Virgin Islands. "Sixty years," he said when asked how long he has been a sailor, nearly a full career in itself! On Beaver Island, he sailed locally with longtime island sailor Paul Niehaus and Ken Zick, taking out an Ensign 22 for years, some of his fondest memories of peaceful island days.

Once he settled on the Island, Mulvihill became involved in the community almost immediately. He served as a docent at the Maritime Museum and sat on the Historical Society Board. "That was the most fun I ever had," he said. "All the people I met were unbelievable." His most memorable moment came when he interviewed Frank Mays, one of only two survivors of the sinking of the Charles C. Bradley, conducting the interview in front of the ship's original lifeboat.

Remembering Mulvihill's time with the Historical Society, Executive Director Lori Taylor-Blitz reflected on his lasting influence with the following statement: "The Beaver Island Historical Society is deeply grateful for Dick Mulvihill's service as both a member of our Board of Directors and a dedicated docent at the Marine Museum. Dick had a remarkable gift for connecting with visitors. Many were drawn in by his stories and thrilled to learn from his firsthand experiences on the water. His passion for maritime history is also preserved through the 18-minute video he directed and created for our website, featuring an interview with Frank Mays, a survivor of the Carl D. Bradley shipwreck. Dick's contributions have enriched our understanding of Beaver Island's maritime legacy and will continue to educate and inspire for years to come."

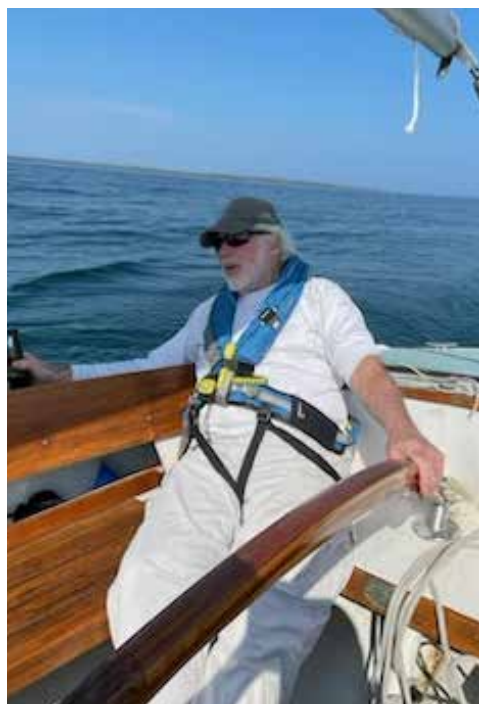
Mulvihill later served as president of the Beaver Island Archipelago Trails Association and held leadership roles in the Beaver Island Association. His love of the island's natural beauty deepened when he got a dog later in life, spending countless hours exploring Beaver Island's trails. The island's history also captivated him, especially its "bizarre complexity," as he described it, from stories of Strang to recordings of longtime residents.

Many Islanders know Mulvihill best for his extraordinary work on broadband (a commitment that lasted nearly the entire ten years he lived here). With a professional background in network technologies, he recognized the island's service challenges early on and began working with state and national broadband experts. He became one of the leading advocates for a community-owned broadband network, emphasizing the risks posed by network outages, including island-wide 9-1-1 failures in 2024 and 2025. "Without a community-owned network, the community is at risk," he said. "The resources exist to fix the problem. It will take the entire community to make it happen."

Regarding Mulvihill's longstanding dedication to Beaver Island broadband efforts, longtime friend and associate Kevin Boyle said, "I met Dick at a Beaver Island Association meeting, where I made a presentation on a proposal from Northern Michigan University to bring their Educational Access Network to the Island. We quickly discovered that we had a common interest in improving broadband on the Island. We've worked closely together on the project ever since. Dick has been tenacious in following every lead and opportunity for improvement. The fact that the Peninsula Fiber Network fiber line is coming through the Island is, in no small part, a result of the ruckus Dick helped us make in Lansing about poor service on the Island. Even after his departure, he has continued to work on our project to develop a community-owned fiber system. Islanders for generations to come will have Dick to thank for the better broadband from which we will benefit in the years to come."

Mulvihill is moving primarily for healthcare access, noting the difficulty of securing consistent care as he entered his 80s. He has relocated temporarily to Marion, North Carolina, with the long-term goal of settling in Oriental, North Carolina, known as the sailing capital of the state. If the southern climate proves too warm, he may head back toward the Great Lakes, possibly settling in Sheboygan, Wisconsin, not far from where he grew up.

Despite the move, Beaver Island will remain part of his life. "My daughter lives here, and I've got to hit the music fest," he said. "My grandkids have spent their entire lives every summer on the island. I'll be back." Reflecting on half a century of connection, Mulvihill said the island's people, trails, and music will always draw him home. "It's a unique place. Time hasn't changed much on Beaver Island," he said. "It's been a great part of my life."



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BAROQUE ON BEAVER'S SILVER ANNIVERSARY IS ALMOST HERE!

By Kim Warner

The Beaver Island Performing Arts Alliance (BIPAA) can't wait to celebrate the 25th anniversary of Baroque on Beaver, our annual summer music festival. Based on a vision of our founders --Jean Howell, Jane Maehr, Ruth Kelly and others—what began as a single evening of music performed by 36 talented seasonal and year-round residents has grown into a nine-day Festival with performances by professional instrumental and choral musicians from across the Midwest and beyond. That first concert of Baroque music took place in 2002 at the St. James Episcopal Church. Over the years, the music has expanded to include not only concerts of classical music but also a variety of other genres performed in numerous indoor and outdoor venues across the island.

Significant milestones in the Festival's growth include: receiving our first award from the Charlevoix County Community Foundation in 2007; becoming an officially designated non-profit organization in 2008; appointing Robert Nordling as Principal Conductor in 2010; creating a Jazz Series in 2015; acquiring a 1916 Mason & Hamlin concert grand piano; being featured on Interlochen public radio in 2017; and, during the 2020 Covid pandemic, pivoting to an on-line format that has allowed us to reach audiences across the world!

Between now and the 2026 summer festival, we plan to share interesting details about the evolution and variety of our musical offerings, the range of venues we've performed in over the years, the background and accomplishments of our

internationally respected conductor Robert Nordling, anecdotes about some of our highly accomplished musicians, the growth of our budget and expansion of our funding sources, the economic impact of the Festival on our beloved island, and a preview of the 2026 program and celebration. Stay tuned!!

The upcoming 2026 Festival begins on Thursday, July 23, and ends with a grand finale on Saturday, August 1.

We look forward to having you join us for our Silver Anniversary,

GUTSY WOMEN: INA REDDING

The following article is a feature from the Gutsy Women Exhibit, an annually updated exhibit at the Beaver Island Historical Society's Print Shop Museum that highlights women from Beaver Island's past who helped shape the community.

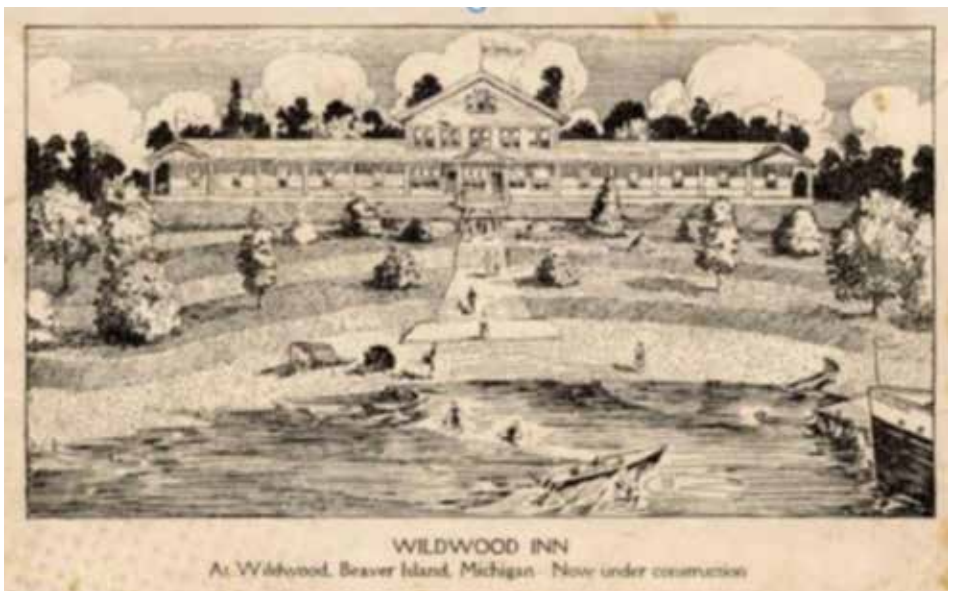
Ina Redding first came to Beaver Island around 1916. She was a second-generation immigrant from Ireland. A highly skilled seamstress, she was enticed by the opportunity to invest in resort properties. It is believed that she signed on to be a cook for Citizens Realty during its building phase of the Wildwood Inn and was likely given two lots in exchange. She brought with her some commercial-grade tents that she sewed herself, which she rented out, and lived in one herself. It is believed that she cooked for the building crew in a separate tent. She looked forward to building on her new property, but the properties surrounding the Wildwood Inn were never surveyed nor officially recorded, so investors were never able to legally claim their land. The project was doomed. Citizens Realty declared bankruptcy, and the inn was never finished. She went back to Chicago and returned to work.

Ina was not deterred. She returned to the island and homesteaded property between Oliver's Point and McFadden's Point. It took three years for her to complete the requirements for the U.S. Homestead Act. She was awarded the land in 1923.

She relied on the kindness of Islander friends to help her turn the wooded land into a working farm. They were given a share of the crops in return.

She continued to winter in Chicago, working as a seamstress, and returned every summer to her homestead. The farming venture never really took off, as there were more hurdles than could be overcome to make it successful. The soil quality was poor, and there was not enough readily available fertilizer for her to amend the soil.

She was isolated on her property, but she never lacked visitors. She had a large family that came every summer.



She worked as a seamstress on the island as well. She made the flower girl dresses and possibly the bridesmaid dresses for Winifred (Wini) LaFreniere McDonough's wedding in 1932. Wini's dress was bought in Chicago, and Ina did all the alterations on the island. Wini's granddaughter, Colleen, wore the dress many years later.

It is widely believed that she walked to town often, a distance of eight to ten miles. She likely stopped at her friend Maggie Boyles' home for at least a night to break up the walk.

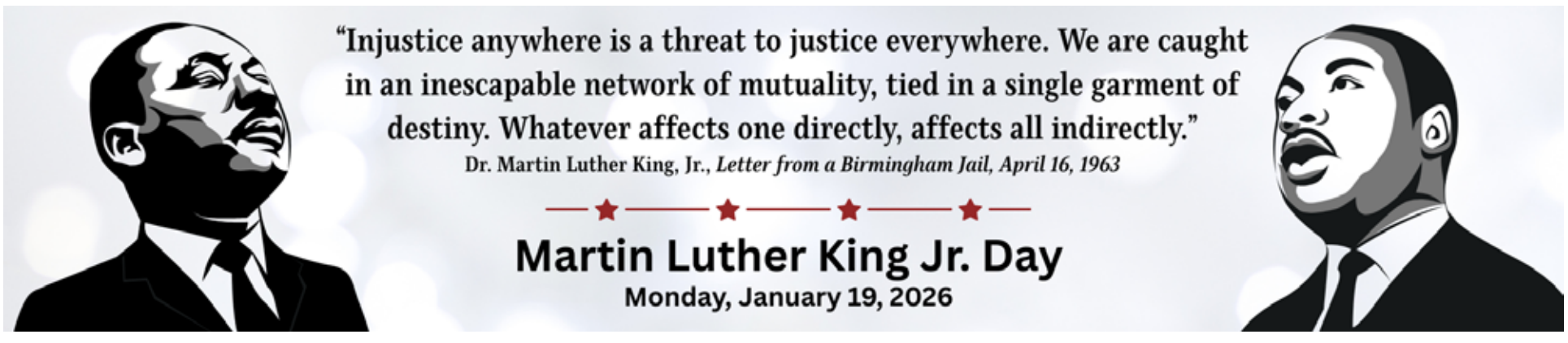
As she aged, she moved closer to town to a cabin on Sloptown Road. She had a helper in Beatrice O'Donnell, a teenage neighbor. She taught Bea to sew and used every available piece of fabric to create new items. Interestingly enough, Bea's daughter, Grace, is also being honored as a Gutsy Woman this year.

In summation, Ina Redding was a woman well ahead of her time. She began homesteading the same year that women were allowed to vote. She was a very accomplished seamstress and used that skill to provide for herself. She was a single mother to her stepson and showed no interest in ever remarrying. Much of her life remains a mystery. She died in August 1946 at the age of 80 in Illinois. She is buried in the St. James Township Cemetery. A small plaque marks her grave.

SANTA'S WORKSHOP AT BEAVER ISLAND COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Pictured are the Beaver Island Friends of Veterans & AMVETS, and event organizers Theresa McDonough and Ryann Turner.

Pictured are Santa's Workshop volunteers helping to wrap the student's presents for their families.


"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly."
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Letter from a Birmingham Jail, April 16, 1963
Martin Luther King Jr. Day
Monday, January 19, 2026

C3F AWARDS GRANTS FOR BEAVER ISLAND, BOYNE CITY, CHARLEVOIX, AND EAST JORDAN

By Sara Ward

The Charlevoix County Community Foundation (C3F) responded to grant requests from nonprofit partners in four geographic areas in Charlevoix County in October. Thanks to donors who look to the Community Foundation to make a difference close to home, grants have been awarded to nonprofits who will work to improve the quality of life on Beaver Island and in Boyne City, Charlevoix, and East Jordan. In all, 25 grants totaling $247,268 were awarded during the Geographic Enrichment cycle. Some of these grants are specific to only one city, while others will benefit multiple communities at once.

Five grants specific to Beaver Island were awarded to support the following organizations and initiatives: Beaver Island Historical Society to help complete the restoration work to the tower entrance of the Beaver Head Lighthouse keeper's quarters, Beaver Island Rural Health Center to support repairing and replacing necessary components of the HVAC system, Patrons of the Arts in Rural Communities to purchase festival recycle bins that align with the capacity and removal practices of the Beaver Island Transfer Station, St. James Township to support the purchase of 20 new, durable bicycles for public use, and Tunes Music Makers to establish Beaver Island's first dedicated music education hub, securing a permanent location for the organization and its programming.

Three grants specific to Boyne City were awarded to support the following organizations and initiatives: Boyne Arts Collective to support scholarships for the 2026 Boyne Kid's Art Camps, ensuring that all children, regardless of financial circumstances, can participate, Boyne Citizen to support paying one full-time writer/editor to focus on long-term sustainability as the only local news source in Boyne City, and Eveline Township to support a feasibility study as a first step in installing dedicated buffered bike/pedestrian lanes on Lake Shore Road.

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Four grants specific to Charlevoix were awarded to support the following organizations and initiatives: Bergmann Center to support the purchase of new tables and cubbies for storage, Charlevoix Circle of Arts to support a community-wide photographic project and exhibit that captures a day in the life of the town, Charlevoix Kiwanis Youth Foundation to support a new social and emotional learning (SEL) Library at Charlevoix Elementary School in September, and Traverse City Dance Project to support this year's Charlevoix performance, which notably offers free admission and a free youth dance class, making high-quality art and arts education accessible to individuals of all ages.

Six grants specific to East Jordan were awarded to support the following organizations and initiatives: East Jordan Care & Share Program to help to provide shampoo, conditioner, soap, laundry detergent, razors, toilet paper, deodorant, and more, for those in need, Friends of the Jordan River Watershed to support a staff person to help expand the mission of the FJR and to provide support for visitors and trail users, Jordan River Arts Council to support strategic planning for cultural leadership, community impact, and long-term sustainability, Raven Hill Discovery Center to help create consistent, branded signage for Raven Hill's entire campus, which will also include translations into Spanish and Anishinaabemowin, Training Wheels Childcare Center to complete construction of their on-site playground to support early childhood development, and Wagbo Peace Center to support a strategic master plan to serve as a roadmap to sustain and expand their mission and increase its support of the local community.

Two grants supported housing initiatives through Geographic Enrichment Funds from one or multiple communities and Housing Solutions Funds. These include the City of East Jordan to support a feasibility study to help determine future housing options at the former boat launch property and Housing North to support the Housing Zoning Atlas (HZA) Project in Charlevoix County that will serve as a foundation for community planning to identify opportunities and barriers to the creation of needed housing. Five grants were made to organizations that have impact in multiple communities: Beaver Island Irish Heritage Group to help cover the cost of lodging and some meals for 20 members of the Arranmore Pipe Band providing economic impact to both Beaver Island and Charlevoix, Power Book Bags (in schools) to purchase literacy materials to serve 511 children in both Beaver Island Community School and East Jordan Elementary School, Power Book Bags (with the Health Department) to purchase literacy materials and books for Charlevoix and Boyne City families, Shoe Club Nation to support activities and materials for the East Jordan program as well as expansion to Boyne City Middle School this year, and Top of Michigan Trails Council to increase community outreach and engagement in area communities with the goal of bringing multiple trails closer to completion.

The Charlevoix County Community Foundation is dedicated to inspiring generosity to drive positive change for the people and places in our area, now and forever. C3F strives to understand the funding gaps in our region, respond to needs, and leverage resources for greater outcomes. Together with donors, C3F is a force for good that's both meaningful and enduring. With assets of over $64 million, the Community Foundation has made grants totaling more than $39 million since 1992.

For more information about the Charlevoix County Community Foundation please contact them at (231) 536-2440, or online at www.c3f.org.

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A YEAR OF CONNECTION AT THE BEAVER ISLAND COMMUNITY CENTER

As 2025 draws to a close on Beaver Island, it's a fitting moment to pause and reflect on what this year has meant for our community—and for the Beaver Island Community Center. More than a building, the BIC Center is where neighbors meet, stories are shared, creativity is nurtured, and connections are sustained. It serves as a vital hearth for the island's spirit.

That spirit was unmistakably alive this year. Foot traffic through the BIC Center remained strong, building on the momentum of recent years and underscoring the growing role the Community Center plays for both residents and visitors. After welcoming more than 47,000 people in 2024—a 21% increase from the year before and nearly 50% growth since 2022—2025 saw that momentum continue. These numbers represent far more than attendance statistics; they reflect a community seeking connection, enrichment, and belonging.

In response, 2025 featured a full and varied calendar of programming. The Community Center once again hosted movie nights during the off-season, offering affordable, cozy entertainment throughout the long winter months. Regular Trivia Nights—often hosted by community volunteers—kept our brains sharp and our lungs laughing, while Time for Art classes invited participants to explore new mediums and express their creativity.

Our concert series brought acclaimed musicians and beloved local performers to the stage, filling the theater with music ranging from intimate acoustic sets to rousing ensemble performances. Continued partnership with the Beaver Island Performing Arts Alliance meant Baroque on Beaver, the Beaver Island Jazz Series, and Candlelit Christmas returned to our stage. CMU Summer Theatre programming once again brought the art of theatre to the island while giving Central Michigan University students the opportunity to further their education. These evenings weren't just entertainment—they were shared experiences that reminded us of the power of gathering together.

Some of the events closest to our hearts are the free family programs we're proud to offer our island community. From Easter Eggstravaganza, Masterpieces for Mom, and Dads Rock to Harvest on the Harbor and Home for the Holidays, these celebrations gave us opportunities to come together, mark the seasons, and create lasting memories.

The BIC Center also continued to serve as a cornerstone for health, learning, and daily rhythm on the island. Exercise classes helped residents of all ages stay active and connected, while senior activities provided structure, warmth, and companionship. For many, these programs are a lifeline—a reason to leave the house, to be seen, and to feel part of the island family.

Beyond scheduled events, the Community Center quietly supports island life in countless ways. WVBI Radio expanded its reach and deepened its local coverage, sharing news, music, and island voices with listeners near and far. Workshops, seminars, school activities, and community meetings filled the spaces between headline events, keeping the building active and welcoming year-round.

This growth doesn't happen by accident. Increased use brings increased demands—on the building, our small but dedicated staff, and the volunteers who give their time so generously. Even so, the BIC Center remains committed to keeping user fees low and operating without millage or tax funding. Nearly half of our operating income—47%—comes directly from fundraising, with every dollar reinvested into programs, maintenance, and services that benefit the entire community. Donor support makes it possible to welcome educators, artists, and performers; keep doors open during the quiet winter months; and adapt to the evolving needs of island life.

As we look ahead, our vision is not simply to maintain what exists, but to strengthen and expand it. With continued support, we can grow free and accessible programming for youth, seniors, and families, enhance cultural offerings, and ensure the Community Center remains a safe, vibrant gathering place for years to come.

As the year comes to a close, we invite you to be part of this ongoing story. A year-end gift to the Beaver Island Community Center is an investment in connection, creativity, and care—values that define Beaver Island and the people who call it home. With your support, we can ensure this cherished community hub not only survives, but truly thrives.

If you'd like to lend your support, please visit biccenter.org/donate. Large or small, your donation makes a meaningful difference to your Community Center and to our island home.

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ST JAMES TOWNSHIP'S STRATEGIC PLAN ANNUAL OUTCOMES - PART 2

By Bobbi Welke, St. James Township Supervisor

In the Northern Islander's December edition, a portion of St. James Township Board's Strategic Plan which covers the township's mission, three goals, and ten actions were introduced to the readers. The December edition also reported on activities associated with the first three action items which focused on Safety. This article discusses the last seven action items which are related to Recreation/Natural Resources and Community.

ACTIONS:

4. Recreation/Natural Resources: Support recreation that maximizes our unique natural resources including the development and operations of marine and land recreation, walking, biking, and ski trails, and opportunities for night/dark sky recreation.

   Report: In 2026, the township will be working to establish community teams to develop and recommend upgrades for the new extended town beach (JF Gillispie and EB Wojan Parks), the campground, and the pocket parks. A community team continues to work on establishing and obtaining funding for a community fishing pier to be placed within the harbor.

5. Recreation/Natural Resources: Ensure our natural resources are protected and enhanced with protection of threatened and endangered species, wildlife, sensitive natural communities, and continued Terrestrial Invasive Species control and avoidance of wood movement.

   Report: In 2025, the township contracted with an invasive species administrator and two interns through Peaine Township to treat, along with various volunteer groups, a variety of invasive species. A similar arrangement is projected to continue in 2026. In addition, a team from the Charlevoix, Antrim, Kalkaska, and Emmet Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area, who have funds to address invasive species, are expected to take action within the Beaver Island Archipelago.

6. Recreation/Natural Resources: Continue and enhance efforts that protect, preserve, and enhance the Township's outstanding surface and groundwater quality.

   Report: The township's planning commission is working to complete the updated zoning ordinances which will address waterfront shoreline protection and impervious surfaces, both of which will improve surface and groundwater quality. This ordinance updating work should be completed before the summer of 2026.

7. Community: Support efforts to minimize blight and litter through waste management measures and ordinance enforcement, and other activities that reflect the character of the community.

   Report: The Beaver Island Association made great progress on removing nearly 160 vehicles from the island at no cost to the owners. When the updated zoning ordinances are enacted, ordinance enforcement will be a township priority as will the enforcement of the township's nuisance ordinance to further address blight in our community.

8. Community: Coordinate plans, policies, and ordinances that create a range of housing options and affordability throughout the Township, with a focus on affordable, workforce, critical care worker, and senior housing, as well as short-term and long-term housing.

   Report: The township planning commission modified a portion of the zoning district "R-2" to reduce the minimum square footage of a home. The new updated zoning ordinances will have some additional reductions in square footage of a home. The township has supported the development of a private workforce housing development with authorizing a reduction in the floor's square footage and apply a property tax reduction. The Beaver Island Association's housing taskforce will engage the Michigan State Housing Development Authority to make their housing grants more remote island friendly.

9. Community: Support efforts establishing fiber to the home and improving the Island's energy efficiency.

   Report: Field data and analysis for a fiber to the home network is expected to be received this December for the Beaver Island Association's broadband team to determine quantities and costs associated with an island network. It is likely that a community meeting will be scheduled this winter for sharing network updates.

10. Community: Deliver on building a better budget that is structurally sound and considers multiple year budgeting and future forecasting. Organize fiscal policies and procedures. Support training in building better budgets.

    Report: Township officials are planning a review of the township-based millages for validation of need and modification where possible to seek to reduce the overall levied millage amount as much as possible.

BEAVER ISLAND
ST. JAMES TOWNSHIP

Please refer to the December edition of the Northern Islander for more information regarding the first three action items.

PEAINE TOWNSHIP: A YEAR OF PROGRESS CONTINUED

By Maria Dal Pra, Peaine Township Supervisor

PLANNING FOR TOMORROW, TODAY

Peaine Township worked and continues to work closely with the Charlevoix County Road Commission to prioritize and increase dust control as well as plan for increased future needs, address road maintenance, and develop long-range planning strategies that support our growing needs and infrastructure.

The Township Board also approved exploring the sale of property to support the purchase of future lake access on the southern end of the island; an initiative aimed at strengthening emergency operations and improving ingress and egress for both residents and first responders.

SUMMER SUCCESS AT BILL WAGNER MEMORIAL CAMPGROUND

One of the year's most exciting highlights came from Bill Wagner Memorial Campground. By hiring a temporary Campground Manager to monitor fire safety, assist guests, and ensure compliance, Peaine Township achieved:

- The highest revenue year since 2021,
- A cleaner, safer, and more enjoyable campground, and
- Strong, positive feedback from campers throughout the season.

This success demonstrates how targeted investment and attentive management can elevate a beloved public resource.

A THOUGHTFUL, FISCALLY RESPONSIBLE APPROACH

One of the greatest strengths behind Peaine Township's success is the leadership and collaboration of its Board of Trustees. Every fiscal decision is made collectively, with each board member contributing distinct expertise, professional backgrounds, and lived experiences all with equal decision-making authority. What truly sets this board apart is not only its competence, but its willingness to communicate openly, debate respectfully, and work through complex issues with a shared commitment to serving the community. Even when members disagree, those conversations remain constructive, grounded in facts, and focused on Peaine Township's long-term well-being. We remind each other that we are stewards of the taxpayer dollar and we have been entrusted to deliver to that expectation.

With state and national indicators suggesting a potential economic slowdown, the Board has already begun proactive financial examination to safeguard township stability. For the upcoming fiscal year, I will be suggesting to the Board of Trustees that only investments that deliver a measurable return for taxpayers, such as reducing long-term energy costs, improving operational efficiency, or strengthening infrastructure, will advance.

Environmental stewardship remains central to every financial decision. As a UNESCO Biosphere region, Peaine Township recognizes that protecting our lakes, forests, dark skies, and sensitive habitats is not merely good policy, it is an essential long-term investment. Our natural environment is a priceless resource and one of the most powerful economic drivers we have. Protecting our natural assets protects our long-term viability.

This fiscal approach is about responsibility, accountability, and thoughtful leadership. Through careful planning, respectful collaboration, and a shared vision for the future, the Peaine Township Board diligently works to ensure that the township remains strong, sustainable, and prepared for whatever lies ahead.

YOUR VOICE MATTERS, ALWAYS

Peaine Township works best when we work together. Every idea, question, and concern helps guide our decisions and shape our long-term goals. Our doors are open because your voice truly matters. Whether it's a small idea, a big concern, or a simple observation, your input helps set our direction and keeps our community moving forward with fairness and respect. We may not always agree on every detail, but we understand that we are all united in our dedication to protecting and strengthening the place we are proud to call home.

I would like to publicly thank Jordan Marsh, Cheryl Kern, Jim Wojan, Levi Connor, Rob Kern, Greenwald Builders, Roberts John Services, Cary Concrete, Powers Do It Best, Beaver Island Lumber Company, Kraai Well Drilling, and Laser Sport Surfacing for working so closely with timelines, weather, projects, and communications to ensure success in 2025. Additionally, sincerest thank you's are extended to everyone who contributed time, energy, and ideas this year. Only together can we shape a bright, sustainable future for Peaine Township.

CHARLEVOIX COUNTY COMMISSIONERS SYNOPSIS - NOVEMBER 26, 2025

Submitted by Kim Garver

The Charlevoix County Board of Commissioners met in the Charlevoix County Commissioners room on November 26, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. Five Commissioners were present.
Excused: Commissioner Christensen.

Motion approved the agenda, as presented.

Motion approved the November 12, 2025, closed session minutes.

Motion approved the consent agenda, as presented.

Resolution #25-156, Grandvue Operating Transfer.

Resolution #25-157, Transit Maintenance Service Fee.

Resolution #25-158, River Caddis Management Professional Services Agreement. 4.1 – Nays: Commissioner Jess.

Resolution #25-159, Beaver Head Lighthouse Maintenance and Repair Agreement. 4.1 – Nays: Commissioner Jess.

Resolution #25-160, Remonumentation Grant Application for 2026.

Resolution #25-161, Notice of Public Hearing for Michigan Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Funding for Urgent Need 2025.

The meeting was adjourned to the call of the Chair at 6:20 p.m. Complete copies of the Board minutes can be found on the County website, www.charlevoixcounty.org.

Julia A. Drost, County Clerk

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